

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2327

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2766

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: SECURITY PROTECTION AFFORDED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT
OVERSEAS POSTS

REF: STATE 210312

1. WE HAVE CONDUCTED A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE SECURITY POSTURE OF THREE MISSION BUILDINGS TO WHICH PUBLIC HAS ACCESS. THESE ARE THE EMBASSY (INCLUDING COMMERCIAL LIBRARY AND CONSULAR SECTION), USIS AMERICAN CENTER (WITH LIBRARY), AND FBIS OFFICE WHICH THOUGH NOT REGULARLY VISITED BY PUBLIC IS LOCATED IN ACCESSIBLE APARTMENT BUILDING. AS RESULT OF VIOLENT ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS DURING PAST YEAR WHICH INCLUDED USE OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AGAINST EMBASSY (AUG 19, 1974), ATTEMPTED BURNING OF EMBASSY (JANUARY 18, 1975) AND ATTEMPTED ENTRY/BURNING OF AMERICAN CENTER (JANUARY 20, 1975), WE HAD ALREADY CARRIED OUT EXTENSIVE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED BY TERRORISM BUDGET. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THESE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISTS SEIZURE OF KUALA LUMPUR VARIETY, UNTIL NOW FOCUS OF OUR SECURITY PREPARATIONS HAS BEEN ON COPING WITH KIND OF VIOLENT MASS DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH SEEMED MOST LIKELY IN VOLATILE CYPRIOT POLITICAL CLIMATE. WITH THIS AS PREFACE, FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS OUTLINE ADDITIONAL STEPS WE CONTEMPLATE SPECIFICALLY AGAINST POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS.

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2. EMBASSY: COMPOUND NOW HAS 360-DEGREE CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) COVERAGE FROM FIVE CAMERAS MOUNTED EXTERNALLY AND MONITORED IN LOBBY MSG POST. SYSTEM, HOWEVER, STILL EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES; ONE OR MORE CAMERAS OFTEN NONFUNCTIONAL. RTC SUPPORT FOR REPAIR IS EXCELLENT BUT SOMETIMES DELAYED DUE OTHER COMMITMENTS; EMBASSY HAS VERY LIMITED TROUBLE-SHOOTING OR REPAIR CAPABILITY. ALTHOUGH TWO ARMED MSG'S IN LOBBY SEARCH BAGS/BRIEF CASES OF VISITORS TO CONSULAR SECTION, AND CONTROL ELECTRONICALLY ACCESS TO SENSITIVE AREAS ON SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR TERRORISTS TO GAIN ACCESS TO CONSULAR OR COMMERCIAL SECTIONS UNDER GUISE OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND TAKE HOSTAGES, THEREBY OBTAINING FORCED ENTRY ELSEWHERE IN BUILDING. WE ARE CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS:

A) OBTAIN ONE CAMERA (WITH MONITOR) FOR BACKSTOP USE IN EVENT OF MALFUNCTIONS, PLUS SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS FOR SYSTEM.

B) TRAIN ONE FSL EMPLOYEE IN BASIC REPAIR OF CCTV SYSTEM, IF NECESSARY THROUGH TDY TO ATHENS OR APPROPRIATE LOCATION.

C) INSTALL CCTV CAMERAS IN LOBBY AND IN CONSULAR SECTION WITH MONITORS IN RSO AND EXECUTIVE SECTIONS.

D) INSTALL AUDIO/VISUAL DISCRETE ALARM SYSTEM, ACTIVATABLE AT MSG DESK, IN COMMERCIAL SECTION AND CONSUL'S OFFICE, NOTIFICATION TO BE RECEIVED IN RSO OFFICE AND EXECUTIVE SECTION. THIS WOULD PERMIT IMMEDIATE ALERT TO REST OF EMBASSY IN EVENT OF TERRORIST PRESENCE.

E) INSTALL SOLID METAL DOOR LEADING INTO EXECUTIVE SECTION ON SECOND FLOOR.

3. USIS AMERICAN CENTER: USIS LOCATED IN CENTRAL NICOSIA TWO MILES FROM EMBASSY. IT IS UNQUESTIONABLY MOST VULNERABLE OF MISSION'S THREE LOCATIONS. TWO AMERICANS AND 16 FSL'S WORK THERE. ACCESS TO SECOND FLOOR IS CONTROLLED BY CIPHER LOCKS BUT TERRORISTS COULD TAKE HOSTAGES IN FIRST FLOOR LIBRARY AREA. NO MSG'S ARE ASSIGNED TO USIS. THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO ALARM
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OR CCTV SYSTEMS. ONE CYPRIOT POLICE OFFICER OUTSIDE WOULD PROVIDE SMALL PROTECTION IN EVENT OF TERRORIST ATTENTAT. WE ARE CONSIDERING FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS:

A) INSTALL CCTV CAMERA IN LIBRARY TO GIVE VISUAL COVERAGE OF ENTIRE DOWNSTAIRS AREA. MONITORS LOCATED IN OFFICE OF PAO (SECOND FLOOR) AND THROUGH LING-LINE TO RSO OFFICE IN EMBASSY.

B) INSTALL ALARM SYSTEM PER PARA 2(E) ABOVE WITH ACTIVATION IN LIBRARY OR PAO'S OFFICE, NOTIFICATION TO BE RECEIVED IN PAO'S OFFICE, RSO OFFICE AND EXECUTIVE SECTION IN EMBASSY.

C) RECRUIT AND TRAIN TWO FULL-TIME CYPRIOT CIVILIAN GUARDS TO PROVIDE INTERNAL, ARMED PROTECTION IN FIRST FLOOR AREA. ALTERNATIVE IS TO INCREASE MSG POST DETAIL BY THREE MEN, AT CONSIDERABLY GREATER COST.

4. FBIS: FOUR AMERICAN AND 15 FSL/TCN'S WORK IN FBIS OFFICE. SINGLE ENTRY DOOR IS WOODEN WITH PEEP-HOLE AND ELECTRIC LOCK CONTROL. HEAVY STEEL DOOR SLIDES INTO PLACE BEHIND WOODEN DOOR IN EVENT OF SUSPECTED TROUBLE AND EFFECTIVELY SEALS OFF ACCESS. ROLL-UP ALUMINUM ESCAPE LADDERS PROVIDE EMERGENCY EXIT FROM SECOND FLOOR WINDOWS. ONLY FURTHER PRECAUTION WE ENVISAGE IS POSSIBLE USE OF ARMED CYPRIOT GUARD FOR ROVING PATROL, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL, PER PARA 3(C).

5. REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR WILL VISIT POST SEPTEMBER 18 TO REVIEW IN DEPTH ENTIRE QUESTION OF IMPROVING DEFENSES AGAINST TERRORIST ACTIVITY. PROPOSALS MADE ABOVE, AS WELL AS OTHERS RSS MAY SUGGEST, WILL BE EXAMINED AND COSTS COMPUTED. POST WILL THEN SUBMIT TO DEPARTMENT FULL DETAILS OF RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TOGETHER WITH REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM TERRORIST BUDGET.
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